SHANGHAI [illegible] POLICE
S. I. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 8031
Date 7 8 37

The Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury, Friday, August 6, 1937

Man Without Country Due Back From Japan

Unless Japan showed more hospitality than this country, Gustave Pick, German, was on board the Jean Laborde when that liner returned to this port this afternoon from Kobe. Pick, man without a country, after being released from a German concentration camp was allegedly deported to France where he picked up a criminal record. He then decided to go to Japan to start life anew, borrowing passage money and passport from Harry H. Dunham, an American citizen of Cincinnati, Ohio. He lost this passport on arrival here and while the Laborde was in port was passed from one Consulate to another, the French, American and German Consulates showing equal disinterest in the fate of Pick. He was finally sent back to the ship. If the vessel is still embarrassed with his presence, it probably means that Pick will return to France as an unwelcomed guest of the captain.

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Self-Professed Offender Has Little Luck In Shanghai

American Authorities Seize Passport, Chinese Refuse Jurisdiction Over Through Tourist

Gustav Pick, a young German, is a strange man in an odd predicament. He has tried hard to get arrested in Shanghai, but none of the authorities, Chinese or foreign, are interested in his case. So today he will be continuing to Kobe, where he may have better luck.

Pick is a third-passenger aboard the M.M. liner Jean Laborde from Marseilles to Kobe. He arrived here with the ship on Sunday and on Tuesday, for some unaccountable, reason, he confessed to the captain that he was travelling on another man's passport. He had an American passport while he was a German, he declared.

The passport was issued to Mr. Harry Dunham, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who evidently bears a striking resemblance to Pick. He said that Dunham had given him the passport in Marseilles and had also given him the money for his passage to Kobe. The passport had visas for France, England and Spain.

Notified, the American authorities took possession of the document, but were otherwise disinterested in its present holder. The man was then taken to the German Consulate, where he said that he was a Communist and had spent six months in a concentration camp in Germany. After his release he went to France, where he had been convicted six times on criminal charges. Even these confessions failed to move either the German or French Consular authorities to the point of action. Pick also produced a deportation order from France but to no effect.

Lastly, the Chinese immigration officials were notified of the unusual man, but they, too, were disinterested.

Earnest concentration on the part of River Police officials has failed to find a reason for Pick's confession. Evidently he wanted to stay in Shanghai, but why he did not choose the simple expedient of walking off the ship has baffled everyone.

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THE CHINA PRESS, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1937

German Exile With U.S. Passport Here En Route To Japan

Gustave Pick, German, only a few months out of a Hitler concentration camp, became the subject of considerable diplomatic attention in Shanghai yesterday when it was brought to the attention of the authorities that he was traveling from Marseilles to Kobe aboard the Messageries Maritimes liner Jean Laborde on an American passport belonging to Harry H. Dunham, of Cincinnati.

The Jean Laborde arrived in Shanghai Sunday and Pick, who was traveling third-class, decided that he would rather stay in this city than journey on to Japan. He has a communist record and he was apprehensive of what might happen to him when he attempted to leave the ship at Kobe.

He remained aboard the French liner until Tuesday without mentioning his plans to any of his fellow passengers or to the officers. On the afternoon of that day, however, he went to the officers and explained his predicament, apparently hoping that they might be good fellows and let him debark without interference.

Consulates Informed

The officers, however, were not inclined to view matters in a passing light. Pick had confessed to them that he was traveling on a passport not his own and to them, it was serious business. They notified the French Consulate-General which in turned informed the American Consular authorities.

An investigation was immediately started and yesterday, Pick was brought before the German Consulate General where he made a general statement comcerning himself and his activities. He declared that he had been lodged in a Hitler concentration camp for alleged participation in communistic affairs. He was held there for six months and then deported. He went to France, he said, where, during a short space of time, he earned a criminal record for himself. Six convictions were handed down against him, but according to his story, they were largely because he had been caught while engaging in communistic activities. The French finally decided to deport him and he produced a deportation order to prove that part of his story.

Says American Gave It To Him

He stated that he met Dunham in France and that they had become friendly. The American not only gave him the passport, Pick said, but also supplied the money for his passage to Kobe.

Pick pleaded with the authorities to allow him to remain in Shanghai but his entreaties were refused. He was told that if he persisted and tried to remain here, he could be prosecuted for traveling on a passport that did not belong to him. The American authorities insisted that the passport be handed over to them and Pick was accordingly relieved of the document.

When the Jean Laborde sails for Kobe this morning, Pick will be aboard. Just what will happen to him in Kobe is a matter of conjecture. Right now, he is a man without a country with no place to go and no place to land.

FM. 2
G. 45M-1-36

File No. 8031

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Special Branch - CS6. Station 37

REPORT

Date July 28, 1937.

Subject Gustaf PICK, German - activities of.

Made by and Forwarded by D.S. Pitts.

Arriving in Shanghai on July 26, 1937 on the Messageries Maritimes m.v. "Jean Laborde" from Marseilles as a third-class passenger was a German emigrant named Gustaf PICK. During the voyage from Europe he was known on board as Harry H. DUNHAM, American. PICK was in possession of American passport No. 210474 issued in the name of Harry H. DUNHAM at Washington D.C. on June 12, 1935 and renewed in New York in the same name on July 7, 1937. At the passport examination in Shanghai, PICK, who is unable to speak English, admitted that the passport did not belong to him. Following enquiries by the River Police and Chinese Passport Office authorities, PICK was not permitted to land and will be returned to his point of embarkation - Marseilles.

Questioned by the local German authorities at the request of the River Police, PICK, a young man of 27 years, stated that about 3½ years ago, he escaped to France after having served six months in a concentration camp in Germany for having participated in communistic activities. He was the leader of a communistic youth group, according to his own statement.. After the period of incarceration in the concentration camp, he made his way across the French boundaries without a passport and did odd jobs to earn a living, but for two years of his stay in France he was in prison having been found guilty on charges of vagrancy and sodomy

In June of this year whilst in Paris PICK came into contact with an American named DUNHAM, and both of them being sexual perverts, indulged in acts of homosexuality for three days and nights, after which DUNHAM, according to PICK, 'out of the goodness of his heart' gave him (PICK)

29 JULY 1937

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FM. 2
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File No. .....

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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REPORT

Date 19

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Subject .....

Made by ..... Forwarded by .....

his passport and a ticket on the "Jean Laborde" to Shanghai.

PICK, who, physically, is a fine speciman of manhood, appears to be slightly mentally deranged and spoke quite freely of his many associations with men. Whether his story is true or not is open to doubt, but it is understood that the local American Consular authorities, a representative of whom attended PICK'S interrogation, are making the necessary enquiries in France to either confirm or disprove PICK'S version.

It is of interest to note that among the many places at which Pick called whilst in transit from Marseilles was Colombo. Whilst in this port PICK presented DUNHAM'S passport to the police there and had it stamped "Permitted to Land." The passport has now been retained by the American Consular Authorities.

The undersigned attended PICK'S interrogation in an unofficial capacity only.

J. A. Pitts

D. S.

C.I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

Copy sent to French Police

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